

Control in East Is German Aim, Declares Expert

H. Charles Woods Says
Russian Peace Has Sin-
ister Significance

Want Bagdad Road

Personalities of Men Sent to
Bargain With Slavs Proves
Case, He Says

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—Secretary Baker is right in stating that the German peace manoeuvres should not for a moment induce the United States to slacken its preparations for war, in the opinion of H. Charles Woods, fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and a recognized authority upon military matters in England, who is now in this city.

In a statement to-day Mr. Woods pointed out that the exit of Russia from the war would remove one of the great obstacles in the way of the realization of the desire of Emperor William and his advisers for domination from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf, an area in which they could maintain their position without sea power.

"If any proof were wanted," he continued, "that the Germans in negotiating peace with Russia have in view their future success in the East, it would be in the personalities of the German and Turkish delegates."

"Von Kuhlmann, whom I knew when he was councillor of the German Embassy in London until the outbreak of war, is himself an avowed 'Easterner.' At that time his one aim and object was to bring about an agreement between England on the one side and Germany and Turkey on the other, in regard to the Bagdad Railway. In this he nearly succeeded, for he lost no opportunity of making promises of the most ample kind with politicians and journalists, British and foreign."

Urges 'Eastern' Policy

"If there be a man in Germany who would be willing to make sacrifices in the West or even upon questions of general importance to Russia in order to secure the cooperation of or a hand from that country in the Balkans and in Asia Minor it is von Kuhlmann. It is interesting to note that the Bulgarian delegates are none of them men of outstanding reputations at home or abroad. This can be no accident. It is due either to the fact of Czar Ferdinand's considering he has no interests other than the retention of Macedonia, upon which he would accept no decision except one forced upon him, or to the fact that the 'Fox of the Balkans' wishes, later on, to be able to say that he never treated this conference seriously and therefore to be free to accept any policy which may then seem advisable to him."

"The Turkish delegate of outstanding importance is Haki Pacha. He has been Grand Vizier and ambassador in various countries and is one of the most pro-German of the Turks."

Haki an Intriguer

"Moreover when Germany and Russia had come to an agreement on the Bagdad Railway, as a result of the meeting between the Kaiser and the Czar at Potsdam in 1910, it was Haki Pacha who, after the conclusion of the Tripoli and Balkan wars, was sent to London by Turkey, in agreement with Germany, to try to bring about agreements between the British Foreign Office, the German Embassy, that is, von Kuhlmann, and the Turkish Embassy in regard to the Bagdad-Persian Gulf section of the railway and other important matters connected with that region. Those agreements had fortunately not been signed on the outbreak of the war."

"I lay particular stress upon the influence of these peace negotiations upon what I feel convinced are the designs of the Germans in the East. Realization of such designs would be as dangerous to the future of the world's peace as would the conclusion of a peace unsatisfactory to the Allies and to America in Western Europe or elsewhere."

Transfer of Troops

Distinctly Barred

In Armistice Terms

In the armistice agreement between the Bolshevik government and the Central Powers, signed at Brest-Litovsk on December 13, the following proviso was made regarding troop transfers:

"Both sides signing this agreement bind themselves until December 30, 1917 (new style, January 12, 1918), not to carry on operative military transfers on the front from the Baltic to the Black Sea, except such transfers as were already begun up to the moment of signing this agreement."

At the time this was published military critics regarded it as of a farcical character, as it had been reported that German troops had been moved from the Russian front to the West by the hundreds of thousands before the armistice was concluded. Many of the German divisions left on the Eastern front were reduced in numbers until they consisted of only 6,000 men each.

A few days ago it was reported Germany was concentrating troops so as to threaten the Rumanian front and the Ukraine.

There has been little news from Rumania since the Rumanian army was forced to agree to an armistice on the Eastern front. It has been reported that Bolshevik and German propagandists were at work among the Rumanian troops. A few days ago General Stecherbachoff, the Russian commander in Rumania, was reported to have taken command of the Ukrainian forces. On December 10 the Bolshevik government announced that General Korniloff's forces had been defeated at Bielorod, which is about fifty miles north of Kharkov, and three days later it was said that General Korniloff had been wounded and that his capture was expected.

Indiana Farmers Who Have

Wood Will Get No Coal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The Indiana Fuel Administrator, Evans Woolen, has issued orders to retail coal dealers to deny supplies of coal to farmers when it is known that they have plenty of available wood for use as fuel. This is one step in a vigorous campaign in Indiana to extend the substitution of wood for coal as fuel, according to reports to the Federal Fuel Administration.

Volivostok Starving; Refugees Rush to Japan

Great Stores of Material Held Up While People, Clamoring
to Change Almost Worthless Rubles Seek
Chance to Get to America

By Harrison Smith
VLADIVOSTOK, Nov. 15, 1917.
[Special Correspondence]

In these hours of peril for the new-born republic of the port of Vladivostok, her only gateway, lies almost as stagnant as a Maine fishing village. The stream of war material which was poured out along the wharves a year ago from America and Japan has practically ceased.

The Russian steamer on which I sailed from Japan arrived two days late, only half loaded, and now, almost a week later, she is still at her wharf, though she should have left four days ago. In the bay only a half dozen small steamers, most of them coastwise bound, are lazily unloading. In another month the port will be closed by ice and Russia, frozen in, hermetically sealed except for the newly opened port on the Arctic, must exist on its steadily decreasing supplies. Even now the army is suffering from lack of munitions and the people of the most fertile nation in the world are suffering from starvation.

In Vladivostok, seven thousand miles from the volcano that has burst forth in Petrograd and Moscow, there is a sort of semi-starvation that keeps its people in a chronic state of exasperation. They are waiting for food for hours in the cold wind for food, though it is not until Ekaterinburg, half way to Petrograd, is reached that hunger becomes acute. The starvation here is another sort, a steady, relentless wastage of strength and vitality. The stores are either closed or have half empty shelves which are daily being depleted. And yet only two days away lies Japan, which manufactures and exports to the seven seas everything that civilization requires.

Ruble, Once Worth a Dollar,

Now Almost Worthless

The other day I carried a pair of shoes to the cobbler, and could have sold them a dozen times over in two blocks; a bag of gold would have created less interest. They were Japanese shoes, at the time of the war, made of an odd mixture of cardboard and bad leather. The reason for this exhaustion of material is that the ruble, which in peace times was worth its weight in gold, is now almost worthless. For every dollar one can now get fifteen or sixteen rubles here and in Japan. It is that much easier to the fact of Czar Ferdinand's considering he has no interests other than the retention of Macedonia, upon which he would accept no decision except one forced upon him, or to the fact that the 'Fox of the Balkans' wishes, later on, to be able to say that he never treated this conference seriously and therefore to be free to accept any policy which may then seem advisable to him."

The Trans-Siberian Railroad, double tracked now for almost its entire length, appears to be the only bright spot on this eastern horizon. Trains arrive four or five days late as a rule, but they do arrive, and they are dispatched almost on time. Every morning the post train starts out on its interminable run of from fifteen to twenty days to Petrograd and Moscow. It is true that no one who did not have the digestion of an ostrich and a complete lack of olfactory organs could follow its progress in carrying an appalling mass of humanity—peasant refugees with their beds and baggage and soldiers who crowd the aisles and platforms until they resemble the New York subway in rush hours. Once a week the express comes from Petrograd, where people who are wealthy are waiting their turn for weeks and paying commissions of thousands of rubles for the privilege of going to Japan and America or of living in the comparative comfort of Vladivostok.

Japan Is Taxed

Care for Refugees

Already Japan has its problem of feeding and housing the refugees who have managed to get to her shore and the land of food and dollars, and in Yokohama and Tokio it is getting to be a common sight to find poverty-stricken bands of Russians with shawls and hats, exactly as we saw on Ellis Island, wandering through streets crowded with those amazing little people in silk kimonos and wooden shoes. No more of these races could be more startlingly unlike.

You see them here, too, for there are hundreds of refugees from Vilna, Grodno, Petrograd and Moscow, where there are 1,500,000 more of them. Most of them in Vladivostok have money, a thick roll of ruble notes tied up with a string and hidden somewhere inside the deepest layer of clothes. The vast majority have America as their objective, a goal as remote as a rainbow, for of what use are rubles when the banks will not change them into American or Japanese money and the Jew money changer will give you only one ruble (worth about 50 cents) for a dozen or twenty hard earned and desperately hoarded rubles?

There is no room to be had for people like these in this frozen city. A long list of wealthy Russians are waiting for a vacancy in the hotels. There is only one warm corner into which they can crawl—the railroad station. At night the misery and dirt and the smell of the wetting mass of humanity that lies packed together on the marble floor is enough to sicken one forever of war and revolution.

As I stood there, holding my breath, I tried to imagine that there were a thousand and one such scenes repeated in Russia alone, and then I remembered Poland and Serbia and Belgium. Winter has already got its grip on Russia. How many thousands or millions will it starve or freeze? The revolution itself was produced in the last analysis by misery like this. Can it cease? Can order be restored until it is in a measure relieved?

Woman's Tragic Fate

Tells Whole Story

The hopelessness of the future of these unfortunate people is epitomized for me in the face of a Russian woman I saw at a stamp office in the Japanese port of Vladivostok. There was a money exchange office there and she was coming out to join a group of two little children and a young girl standing in the rain on the corner.

As I went in she touched my arm and held out a handful of Japanese paper notes and silver. I shook my head and turned away, but she would not let me go until I had counted it, one hundred yen in bills and five in silver. At my vocabulary of fifty words I tried to tell her how much she had. I did not tell her that \$50 was not enough to take her and her children to America, but she understood well. It was as if I had it a few words driven all hope of happiness, of life itself from her and from that rain-drenched group on the corner forever.

These helpless refugees are like

leaves driven by the wind of war. It does not seem that it matters to any one whether they die or live. A single motor truck rescued from the piles of war material heaped up along the railroad track for fifteen or twenty miles from here would have a more immediate effect on the war and consequently on humanity than the salvation of that lost Russian mother and a score like her.

In a twenty minute walk along a spur of the main track beside the water front one can see terrific economic waste and human carelessness. Scores of immense cases holding motor cars, trucks, tractors and valuable machinery of every kind have been dropped on end, or have been piled on top of each other, with the result that the cases are smashed and the machinery is broken. Broken radiators, bent frames or masses of tangled and rusted parts of machines. Most of them might just as well have been dropped in the harbor by the ship that brought them here. At least two-thirds of the products of American factories that I saw are damaged to some extent, a quarter of it is perhaps even gone utterly beyond repair.

Great Mass of Stores

Must Wait Until Spring

Further along the line storeshouses are being built to hold some of the most perishable materials and munitions, but the great majority of the immensely valuable goods piled here, as if Vladivostok were a vast dump heap, seems to be doomed to at least another winter and spring with its melting snow and rain. Intricate machinery would have to be packed in steel crates to be of any use after two or three years of such treatment.

The American railway commission before the disastrous outbreak of civil war in Petrograd were accomplishing marvels in restoring order to the chaos of the Russian railroads. If order can be maintained in both Moscow and Petrograd so that the work they have started will continue there is hope yet that Russian armies can still give an account of themselves. I have talked with many Russians, including Professor Borodin, of the Russian Commission in America, who believe that the efficiency of degeneration of the railroads will determine the course of the revolution and the war.

It is that immense question which is being discussed over glasses of tea in every home and in every restaurant in Vladivostok. Can the forces of order command the situation in winter? Is there a nerve center of the republic? The Bolsheviks, anarchists are our word for them, are not confined to the two capitals. They are here, six thousand miles away; they are in every town and city where there are men who desire the overthrow of others and who believe that the revolution has given them the liberty to take it.

Russia Will 'Explode'

If Bolsheviks Win

The majority of intelligent men whom I have talked with believe that if Petrograd and Moscow are given up to this winter Russia itself will explode like a bomb. The people who have the interests of Russia at heart seem to feel that they are living on the edge of an abyss and until this winter is over they cannot breathe freely. Even in Vladivostok the well-to-do citizens have chains and bolts on their doors, as if they expected to resist a siege. The streets are quiet, yet people will not open to your knock until they are certain that a friend is at the door.

Vladivostok would indeed be a city of nightmares if ever riot were let loose. Its population consists of the most part of poverty-stricken Chinese and tall Mongolians in ragged coats who seem to have stepped out of some blood and thunder movie. There are hundreds of soldiers, "Comrades" one must call them, who are malcontented, perhaps because they have nothing to do but lounge about the streets, refugees driven to desperation, dock laborers and the scum of humanity that exists in any port.

And the fate of all this antheap of mingled races and of Russia itself depends on the courage and steadfastness of the portion of Russia's army that is loyal and on the few great men who are in command of Russia's destiny. The war does not exist here; only the revolution. Except for a few lines in the brief dispatches concerning local engagements of the eastern front there is no news of England or France or of the tragedy of the Italian front. Perhaps it is as well, for on the progress of the revolution in Russia hangs the whole balance of the war may depend.

New York Bolsheviks

Hail Chaotic Russia

As Ideal Government

The "Reds" of New York proudly assert that they are brothers in ideals with the Bolsheviks.

Calling themselves the Bolsheviks of New York, the anarchists, extreme Socialists and opponents of war here have been trying for nearly a month to stir up support for the present group in control of Russia. At the first meeting of the New York Bolsheviks Leonard D. Abbott, the anarchist, said: "It is a strange thing that while the I.W.W. are being persecuted in practically the same ideas are in control of one of the great nations of the world."

The libertarians, self-styled, who meet at the Francisco Ferrer Association in this city, enthusiastically hail the rule of the Bolsheviks as a step toward the attainment of their ideal of government, or lack thereof. Hypocrite Harvel, editor of the anarchist "Social War," Charles Sonnerschein, leader of the League of Conscientious Objectors, and Harry Kelly, of the Ferrer Association, are prominent persons in the New York Bolshevik group. Edward Dujardin, another leading local Bolshevik, recently estimated that five thousand radicals in New York City constituted the "Bolsheviks of New York, an organization that would soon go in for politics in this country."

Besides this group of anarchists, a more moderate group, consisting chiefly of pacifists and known as "The Friends of New Russia," have been holding large meetings in the New Casino and Carnegie Hall "to back up the Russian efforts for peace." In an effort to create sympathy for the Lenin administration the speakers have endeavored to "tell the truth about the Bolsheviks."

"The Friends of New Russia" last week telegraphed President Wilson to recognize Lenin and Trotsky as the "real spokesmen for the Russian people," and to support their efforts for an immediate, general peace. At the same time resolutions expressing sympathy and admiration were sent to the Russian people through Maxim Gorky's newspaper.

Russian Reds Denounce U. S.; Threats to Attack Embassy Fail

PETROGRAD, Dec. 24.—A mass meeting of anarchists was held Sunday afternoon at which inflammatory speeches against the United States were delivered, the speakers basing their attacks on the arrests of Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman and Louis Kramar.

Some of the speakers urged violence against the American Embassy, but only a mild resolution of protest was the outcome of the affair.

A congress of anarchists has been called to meet in Petrograd on Christmas Day of the Russian calendar.

Radical Socialists In Germany Are Gaining Strength

Independent Party Advances as Government
Group Marks Time

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—Comparison of the strength of the Independent Social Democratic party with that of the government Socialists in Germany, showing the remarkable expansion of the former body, is contained in the following editorial article from the "Leipziger Volkszeitung," a south German Socialist daily, made public by the government to-day:

"The Independent Social Democratic party is in the gratifying position to state that more than 120,000 to date have joined as paying members. This does not include the comrades who have expressed their support of the Independent Social Democratic party in the field; nor does it include those who waste on their membership cards black stamps (practiced by the widows of soldiers) and thus are temporarily excluded from the payment of dues. To the 120,000 paying members must be added daily the accession of new members and of organizations in a body."

"We can record this success in the midst of war and under a state of siege which prevents us from soliciting new members for the Independent party, then we may permit ourselves the sincere hope that the overwhelming mass of the Social Democracy of Germany will soon rally to the colors of the Independent party."

"Quite a different picture is presented in the development of the organization of the government Socialists. The current report of the party leaders for the approaching Wurtemberg meeting speaks of a disastrous loss of membership, though it honestly endeavors to conceal the real conditions as best it can to let them appear too unfavorable."

"The Independent party was not founded until April, at Easter time, during the Gothic conference. Thus the report gives an entirely false impression of the present state—much too favorable to the old organization."

"The old party has to-day probably not over 150,000 members. 'The Independent Social Democratic party is therefore to-day almost as strong as that of the government Socialists and will soon outnumber it, provided the agitation is kept up, even during the war and in spite of the state of siege.'"

"This is the result of the destructive policy of the old party ring and of their helpers."

Italian Flying Schools Here to Save Tonnage

[By The Associated Press]

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 25.—The establishment of flying schools in the United States for the training of Italian airmen is for a two-fold purpose, it became known to-day. Conflicting in Italy at the present time do not make for the satisfactory handling of the problem, and there are certain sections in America which are better equipped for the purpose of training Italian airmen than the American continent.

The second reason, which has called for the recommendation from expeditionary headquarters that the schools be maintained on the American continent, is that the utilization of machines already in construction in the United States will save the tonnage involved in the transportation of equipment to Europe.

It is planned to have the American government provide for the construction of the schools, the manufacture of the airplanes and engines along the lines of Italian planes, and the feeding and housing of skilled pilots and cadets. The expense is to be met by Italy at a price to be determined later. It is planned also to have the programme in full operation by the middle of 1918.

Prisoners To Be Exchanged

PARIS, Dec. 25.—An official note announces to-day the reaching of an agreement between the French and German governments for the exchange of prisoners by which non-commissioned officers and men of forty-eight years of age or more who have been in captivity for more than eighteen months will be repatriated. Officers in the same category will be interned in Switzerland.

Appreciable improvements are also obtained through the agreement for the men still in captivity as regards letters, parcels, regulation of work and discipline.

The negotiations for the repatriation or internment of men of forty years or more and having three or more children have failed, says the note, "notwithstanding the generous efforts of the Swiss government."

Says Allies Rely on U. S.

[By Cable to The Courier des Etats Unis]

PARIS, Dec. 25.—Daniel Blumenthal devotes an article in the "Petit Journal" to the cooperation afforded to the Allies by the United States. He says: "We can never be thankful enough to our friends of the United States for all they have done and are willing to do in the struggle against our enemies, which are also theirs."

"We can be fully assured that the Americans, after having contributed by the sacrifices and blood shed by war to the destruction of the Prussian militarism, will not think of saving the aggressors from the just consequences of their crimes, and that the necessary conditions for an indisputable guarantee for the future will be imposed by the United States as much as by the Allies upon the humbled malefactors."

Reform Bill Cuts Nobility's Power In Prussian Diet

It Limits Number of Hereditary Seats and Representation by Landed Class

Nominations Increased

Manhood Suffrage Provided
For in Measure Revising Constitution of Lower House

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—According to a report received here to-day, the reform bill for the upper house of the Prussian Diet contains the following provisions:

"The House shall consist of members appointed by the King in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 36, the princes of the royal house and the princely House of Hohenzollern, who, after reaching their majority, are appointed by the King and become members for life. Sixty persons are appointed for life by nomination from among those who, in virtue of the regulation regarding the formation of the first chamber of the Reichstag of 1854, were appointed hereditary members, namely, ten as representatives of the former imperial houses, twenty-four as representatives of the princes, counts and barons, and twenty-six as representatives of families with hereditary rights."

"There shall further be appointed by nomination as members of the upper house thirty-six burgomasters of large towns for the period of their office, thirty-six owners of landed property of at least 100 hectares (247 acres), which at the time of the nomination shall have been fifty years in possession of one and the same family for the period of their occupation, and thirty-six heads of large industrial or commercial undertakings for the duration of their directorship."

"The following shall be appointed by nomination: Members for twelve years—seventy-two representatives of local authorities of town and country, thirty-six representatives of Berlin, one representative of Hohenzollern land, thirty-six representatives of agriculture, thirty-six representatives of commerce and industry, twelve representatives of the universities, and sixteen representatives of the Evangelical and Catholic churches (ten Evangelical and six Catholic), persons to number not exceeding 150 enjoying special royal confidence shall be appointed for life without nomination, and crown attorneys shall be appointed from their ranks."

"This measure, the report says, provides for the limitation of those sitting by hereditary right and the representatives of old-established landed property who have hitherto been returned by so-called district unions, and, on the other hand, extends the right of nomination. Portions of the country united to the state in 1866, the associations of courts, the four large rural offices in the Kingdom of Prussia and the cathedral chapters will no longer be represented."

"The bill for the reform of the Lower House provides for equal direct suffrage, with secret ballots. Every Prussian who has been a subject for at least three years and has completed his twenty-fifth year gets the right to vote in commune where he has resided for one year."

A third bill provides that the Upper House is not to be required, as hitherto, to accept or reject the budget as a whole, but may pass on separate items."

Fraternalizing Absent

On British Lines

This Christmas

[By The Associated Press]

BRITISH ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Dec. 25.—Christmas Day was bright and cold on the battle front, but there were no demonstrative celebrations. Also, there was no fraternizing with the Germans, as happened on the first, and even on the second, Christmas of the war. The German methods of warfare have wholly destroyed any tendencies of that sort among the Britons.

The British guns have been active during the last few days. Yesterday they achieved considerable concentration on the enemy infantry in the neighborhood of Beclere and inflicted many casualties.

Cardinal Gibbons Asks

Kaiser's Peace Terms

BALTIMORE, Dec. 25.—Cardinal Gibbons, responding to an inquiry as to what he believed the most essential thing to be done in the war, issued this statement to-day:

"I believe that the best way to end the war early in the coming year is for the Central Powers to make a definite proposition, and one that will embrace all their aims and demands."

"On the part of the United States, I believe that the best governmental action would be for the officials to put themselves in a receptive mood for the generous consideration of any peace offer that might come from the Central Powers."

"I think that all Americans should put themselves in a position to sympathetically receive and consider any offer embodying fundamental concessions that would commend themselves to the Allies and to ponder over these propositions in a dispassionate and broad-minded way."

Daniels Seeks Law to

Drop Absent Officers

[Staff Correspondence]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25.—The absence of any authority to drop from the rolls of the navy or Marine Corps officers who absent themselves after expiration of their leaves has resulted in a recommendation to Congress by Secretary of the Navy Daniels for legislation giving the President power to vacate the appointment of the offending officers.

This authority is now confined to officers of the army, and the absence of a similar measure affecting the navy has resulted in serious confusion and delay in the promotion of officers. The present law also prohibits the dismissal of officers of the military or naval service in time of peace except by sentence of a court martial.

If an officer commits an offense of a civil nature and is tried by civil authorities and sentenced, the navy is without authority to institute a court martial for his misconduct, according to the provisions of the law. To remedy this situation Secretary Daniels recommends that Congress enact the following provision:

Haig Sends Greetings

To Americans at Front

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Field Marshal Haig, according to the official announcement, to-day sent Christmas messages to the various Allied commanders. The following message went to General Pershing, commander of the American expeditionary force: "We are proud to think that the New Year will see Americans and British fighting in France for the defence of civilization."

"From all ranks of the British armies in France I send our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to our comrades of the American expeditionary force. We are proud to think that the New Year will see Americans and British fighting in France for the defence of civilization."

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Of Pershing's Men

To Be Promoted

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the traditions

of the imported

MADE WITH

SPARKLING TABLE WATER

first Lieutenant. One of these is the

young son of a well known American.

Two commissioned officers and two

sergeants of the American forces were

badly hurt to-night in a automobile

accident. A high-powered military

motor of the aviation section left the

road and plunged over an embankment,